U.S. FOREST SERVICE

NORTHERN REGION

DIVISION OF STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY

INSECT AND DISEASE REPORT

Report No. 71-26

5220
October 1971

FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE DETECTION SURVEY OF THE ST. JOE NATIONAL FOREST, IDAHO

by

R. C. Lood, Biological Technician (Insects)
Forest Insect and Disease Branch

An aerial forest insect and disease detection survey was conducted on the St. Joe National Forest in early August. The following is a resume of insect activity detected on this survey.

WESTERN SPRUCE BUDWORM, Choristoneura occidentalis Free.--Infestations have increased somewhat in intensity on the north side of the St. Joe River and Buck Creek; however, infestation boundaries remain about the same as last year in these areas. On the south side of the St. Joe River, new defoliation was observed from Fuzzy Creek to Nugget Point. A total of 42,500 acres showed aerially visible defoliation (Fig. 1).

DOUGLAS-FIR BEETLE, Dendroctonus pseudotsugae Hopk.--Douglas-fir beetle activity has increased on the Upper St. Joe River from Avery Ranger Station to Quartz Creek. In most cases, new attacks are adjacent to old infestation centers. Douglas-fir beetle infestations have increased in the North Fork of the Palouse River and appear to be in epidemic proportions in Elk Creek. These areas will be ground checked and evaluated late this fall (Fig. 1).

FIR ENGRAVER, Scolytus ventralis Lec.--Attacks on grand fir are at very low levels, except for an area southeast of Mason Butte near Dicks Creek which appears to have several new beetle killed trees (Fig. 1).

PINE ENGRAVER, Ips pini (Say) and MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE, Dendroctonus ponderosae Hopk.--Infestations have decreased from last year. A few scattered new attacks were observed throughout ponderosa pine stands. No large groups were seen.

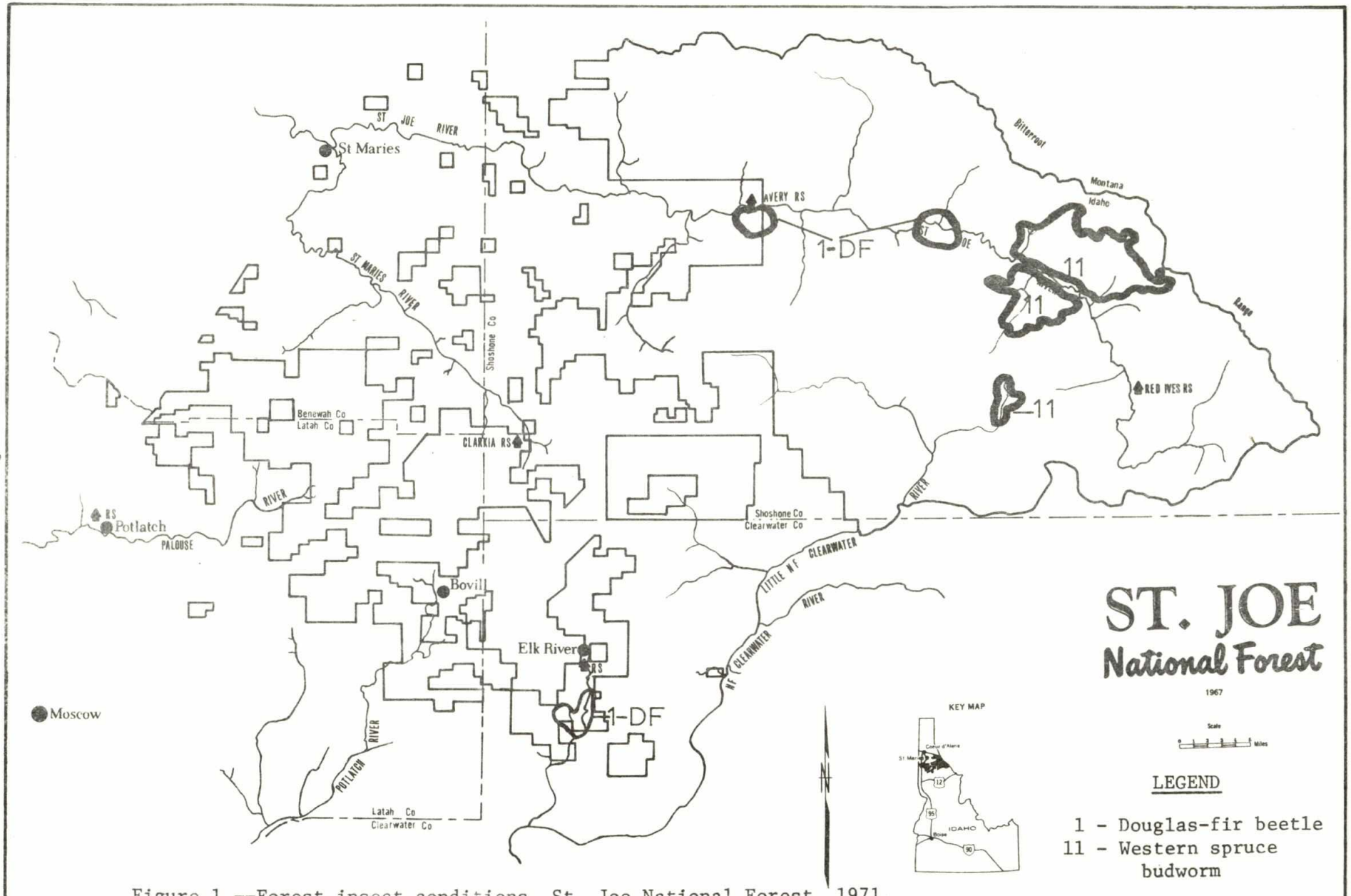

Figure 1.--Forest insect conditions, St. Joe National Forest, 1971.